ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method and apparatus for controlling the operating speed of a manufacturing
facility is disclosed. It includes determining a desired operating speed that is dependent
on at least one economic variable. The variables vary with the operating speed. Also, the
operating speed is adjusted (if necessary) in response to the determination. Preferably the
control is closed loop and includes determining a current operating speed and comparing
the current operating speed to the desired operating speed. The operating speed is
controlled in response to the comparison. The economic variable is preferably a cost of
manufacturing, and/or manufacturing inflows, and/or manufacturing outflows. The
economic efficiency is dependent on one or more economic variables that vary with
operating speed. The current economic efficiency of the facility is obtained along with
information on the business transactions that affects the economic variables. The
economic efficiency of the facility with the proposed transaction, leaving the remaining
variables constant is calculated. Then, the result is displayed to the end user.